

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DOHA 00676 100609Z

11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-04 CEA-01 FEA-01

JUSE-00 FTC-01 SEC-01 /091 W
----- 111818

R 100545Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0537

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0676

DEPT PASS TREASURY FOR PARSKY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EINV, QA, US, OVIP (SENATOR FULBRIGHT)

SUBJ: US PROPOSAL TO GOVERNMENT OF QATAR FOR CONSULTATIONS ON
INVESTMENTS IN US

REF: DOHA 0643 AND 09.3

1. DURING JUNE 9 CONVERSATION WITH SENATOR FULBRIGHT, GOQ
MINISTER OF FINANCE AND PETROLEUM, SHAYKH ABDUL AZIZ BIN
KHALIFA AL THANI, ASKED ABOUT STATUS OF US LEGISLATION AIMED
AT RESTRICTING FOREIGN INVESTMENTS. SENATOR REPLIED THAT
ALTHOUGH A NUMBER OF SUCH BILLS HAD BEEN INTRODUCED, THEY
WERE OPPOSED BY ADMINISTRATION AND MANY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS,
AND HE THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY THAT ANY WOULD PASS.

2. ABDUL AZIZ WARNED THAT SUCH LEGISLATION COULD SEVERELY
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PAGE 02 DOHA 00676 100609Z

DAMAGE ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND OPEC STATES,

AND EVEN BECOME A POLITICAL ISSUE BETWEEN COUNTRIES. HE RECALLED VISIT TO QATAR OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY PARKSY WHO HAD CAUTIONED RE PRESENT US SENSITIVITY TO FOREIGN INVESTMENT, PARTICULARLY FROM OPEC STATES.

3. WHEN IT BECAME OBVIOUS DURING CONVERSATION THAT ABDUL AZIZ DID NOT RPT NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND PRESENTATION DURING PARSKY VISIT, SUBSEQUENT PARSKY LETTER, AND OUR EXPLANATION OF EXECUTIVE ORDER SETTING UP INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT, AMBASSADOR, WHO WAS PRESENT AT MEETING, WENT OVER GROUND AGAIN WITH MINISTER. IT WAS AGAIN EXPLAINED THAT US PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS WERE DESIGNED TO FORESTALL RESTRICTIVE LEGISLATION AND NOT AS RESTRICTIVE MECHANISMS THEMSELVES.

4. COMMENT: WE WILL TAKE EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO GO OVER THIS AGAIN WITH ABDUL AZIZ TO BE SURE THAT INTENT OF US PROPOSAL IS CLEAR TO HIM.
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